

could mean that no more unemployment compensation would be paid in Rhode Island.

Senior citizens could also expect to be hit hard by this Republican brinksmanship. Indeed, nationally 600,000 seniors will not get Meals on Wheels if Republicans do not bring a continuing resolution to the floor by Friday.

Environmental cleanup has stopped at Superfund sites, small business loans go unprocessed, American business people cannot go overseas without passport renewals, our national parks remain closed, and the list unfortunately continues. Mr. Speaker, it is time for some Members of this House to act like they want to take responsibility.

□ 1400

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I think each one of us have furloughed Federal workers in our districts. I have 1,038 in my district. However, 940 of them would be working had the President not vetoed legislation that would have funded their departments.

On November 20, as was said earlier, the President signed a continuing resolution that said he would come up with a balanced budget by the end of this year, by the end of the first Session of the 104th Congress, which was December 31, but he failed to do so. I have to admit I am very frustrated. I think we here in Congress are very frustrated. What does it take for the President to keep his word? Would one more CR do it? Should we just go out on the limb and extend another 10 days and open up this Government?

It seems like every time we come up with a continuing resolution, the President backs away from the negotiating table. The only way that we can keep him at the negotiations table is to continue on our current course. However uncomfortable it may be, however painful it may be, we are going to have to do it. It is the only option that we have left. The President said that he would balance the budget. We said we would do it. We are going to keep to our word. Mr. President, please keep to yours.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet with some of my Federal workers from the Social Security Administration and see firsthand the hardships that we have caused because of our failure to get our work done. They are not interested in excuses.

Enough is enough, as the leader of the other body said when legislation was passed to put our Federal workers back to work. It is now time for us to do the same. For 3 weeks, hundreds of thousands of American families have been held hostage to budget strategy. Some are at work without pay. Some are home not working without pay. Through all of this, millions of Americans have been denied services from their Government.

The American people do not understand this and neither do I. We have all agreed that we are going to pay for Federal workers, yet we are denying people basic services which are going to cost our taxpayers more money. It does not make sense. Enough is enough. Let us get our job done.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we have got our job done. We as a Congress have passed the first balanced budget in over a generation. A man had not walked on the Moon the last time this institution had the discipline to balance the budget. We have done that now.

If we want to know about how big our national debt is, consider this in this holiday season. If we made a million dollars every day from the day Jesus Christ was born until today, we still would not have enough money to pay off our Federal debt. The time to balance the budget is now. Let us forget the demagoguery. Let us forget the half-truths. Let us instead be driven by these words that were written in the 1800's: Ask not what your age wants but what it needs, not what it will reward but what without which it cannot be saved; and that go and do.

That is what we are going to do. We are going to balance this budget.

HONEST NUMBERS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, for the first shutdown we spent \$700 million. In this shutdown we are spending \$40 million a day. We have now been shut down for 19 days. So that comes out to about \$1.5 billion the taxpayers have paid for this little clown act. I think that is exactly what it is. We ought to call it what it is.

When we say what is the real point, they say it is about honest numbers by the President 7 years from now. Even if the President gets reelected, he will not be President 7 years from now. This President and this Congress cannot possibly preordain what future Congresses and future presidents are going to do 7 years from now. We cannot even get decent weather forecasts for tomorrow. What are they talking

about? Honest numbers, 7 years from now. I mean, what kind of arrogance is that that one side has honest numbers for 7 years and we do not. Meanwhile, we keep paying. Enough is enough.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we spend a billion dollars a day just on interest on the national debt. We are elected by adults to represent the children and future generations. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to balance our Federal budget and to get our financial house in order.

Since the Vietnam war the national debt has gone up from \$300 billion to \$4,900 billion, \$4.9 trillion. This is not about Federal employees. This is not about the disruption of some Federal services. It is about finally, once and for all, and for the good of our children and future generations, balance the Federal budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

Taxes are on the table. Spending is on the table. Even defense is on the table. The budget must be balanced and it must happen at least within 7 years.

STOP SHUTTING THE GOVERNMENT DOWN

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I may have a bruised eye but it is nothing compared to the bruises the American people and our Federal workers are taking from this Republican Congress.

I rise today on behalf of the employees and patients of the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees who are stuck in the middle of this budget debate. Here is a copy of a check for \$1.51, which is what one worker at the Bronx VA Hospital Center received when she opened her paycheck in my district last Friday, \$1.51, Mr. Speaker. In New York City that can get you this: One transit token to get home from work, and one penny extra to spend in any way you see fit. And if you live in Co-op City as I do, it will not even get you home, because Co-op City is a two-fare zone.

The staff of the Bronx VA Hospital has begun soliciting food donations to distribute to the staff because the workers cannot afford to buy food. It is an outrage that those who can care for our veterans have to go hat in hand to beg for food. I call upon you Republican colleagues to stop shutting the Government down. Think of people who live from paycheck to paycheck.

REGARDING THE BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. DELLUMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1